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Modi asks citizens to hoist flag at every home on I-Day

Naidu (TDP), Ramdas Bandu Athawale (RSP-A), and leaders Praful Patel (NCP), Upendra Kushwaha (RLM), and Satabdi Roy (NCPI), and others also attended it.

The NDA parliamentary party meeting also saw a presentation by Union Minister of Jal Shakti C R Paatil on different aspects of the Jal Shakti ministry, which is responsible for laying down policy guidelines and programmes for the development, conservation and management of water as a national resource.

The ministry is also responsible for an overall national perspective of water planning and coordination in relation to diverse uses of water.

The NDA parliamentary party meeting is held on every Tuesday when Parliament is in session.

The monsoon session of Parliament, which began on July 20, is set to conclude on August 13.

Soon after the meeting, the NDA MPs staged a protest outside Parliament's main gate, 'Makar Dwar', where they came face-to-face with opposition INDIA bloc MPs, who staged another protest.

The ruling alliance members protested and raised slogans over "brutal" police action on job aspirants in Jharkhand and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi allegedly "running away" from a debate on student protests in different parts of the country.

The opposition block protested over the issues surrounding the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple and demanded accountability from Union Home Minister Shah over alleged police excesses during the July 20 student protests over paper leaks.

The Monsoon session has seen repeated adjournments and virtually no business except the debate on two bills, including The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, which was passed by Parliament.

Four more bills were passed by the two Houses with little or no debate and three other bills were passed by the Lok Sabha, amid unrelenting protests by the opposition.

The opposition parties initially protested over the NEET paper leak and alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

They later pressed for a discussion on the police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister and their statements.

Bill criminalising insult to Vande Mataram gets Prez's assent

tional song and the national anthem are played together.

In an order dated January 28, the home ministry gave the first set of protocols for singing the national song, directing that six stanzas of it, having a duration of 3 minutes and 10 seconds, shall be sung at official functions such as the arrival of the president, unfurling of the national flag, and speeches of governors.

"When the national song and the national anthem are sung or played, the national song will be sung or played first," the order read.

The assembly where the national song is sung shall stand in attention, it said.

The order, which carried several directives, said that in all schools, the day's work shall begin with community singing of the national song.

MeT predicts more rains

likely at many places on August 11 and 12. Heavy to very heavy rainfall was expected in some districts of Jammu division, while brief intense showers were likely in a few districts of Kashmir division during tomorrow forenoon and afternoon hours, it said.

From August 13 to 16, there was a possibility of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places with brief intense showers at a few places. Between August 17 and 19, a few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers were likely at many places. Heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers were expected in some districts during early morning and afternoon hours. From August 20 to 22, light rain and thundershowers were possible at scattered places, the MeT said.

People, tourists and transporters were advised to remain cautious and follow the administration's guidelines.

Patwari booked in graft case

The case was registered after an ACB verification into the allegations that the accused had allegedly misused his official position and demanded Rs 5 lakh from the complainant for issuing a fard.

It was alleged that the accused later accepted Rs 3 lakh through a cheque as bribe, following which the concerned fard was issued.

As part of the ongoing investigation, the ACB obtained a search warrant from the competent court and conducted a search in the residential premises of the accused at Malipeth, near Grid Station, Kishtwar.

The search was conducted in the presence of a magistrate and independent witnesses, officials said.

Officials said further investigation in the case was underway.

Rs 5.78 cr approved for Lah Wali Bowli

The approval forms part of the government's broader efforts to conserve and revitalise historically and culturally significant sites across Jammu & Kashmir.

In recent months, the government has approved a series of heritage conservation initiatives covering both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. These include the repair and renovation of the historic Rattan Garh Fort in Bhaderwah, Doda; restoration and renovation of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram; repair and renovation of the historic Shiv Mandir at Thajiwara, Bijbehara; and restoration and revival of the historic heritage site of Purmandal in Samba.

Other approved initiatives include the conservation and upgradation of the historic Imambara Zadibal in Srinagar, development of the revered holy spring of Khoo Sahib at Yarwan in Pulwama, restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian, and restoration of the revered Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban.

The government's heritage conservation programme seeks to preserve the architectural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir while integrating heritage sites into the region's broader tourism and cultural development framework.

The restoration of Lah Wali Bowli is expected to provide a renewed identity to the historic site in Rajouri, while contributing to local tourism and strengthening efforts to preserve the region's diverse cultural heritage for future generations.

Free UAE visa offer for Indian tourists

To qualify for the offer, the booking must include a min-

imum three consecutive nights' stay at an Abu Dhabi hotel and a return flight from India, reports said.

Abu Dhabi is the capital city and the largest of the seven emirates that constitute the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Located on the Persian Gulf, it serves as the country's political and industrial centre, housing famous tourist landmarks.

The programme comes as India remains a key international tourism market for Abu Dhabi, with the emirate seeking to strengthen air connectivity, travel trade partnerships and tourism opportunities for Indian visitors.

A 30-day tourist visa for the UAE generally costs around AED 252 (approximately Rs 6,500), making the waiver a saving for eligible Indian travellers.

However, travellers cannot independently apply for the offer, with the programme specifically designed for bookings made through participating travel partners and online travel agencies, the report said.

Abu Dhabi's tourism department will cover the full cost of the UAE entry visa for eligible bookings, it said.

Saxena inaugurates Black-Necked Crane Festival

participation of conservationists, researchers and experts from India and foreign countries, including those from the United Nations. Experts from Bhutan and Nepal, which have a sizable population of black-necked cranes, are also participating in the festival.

There are around 16,000 black-necked cranes distributed across India, Bhutan, China and Nepal. The crane is the world's only alpine crane, adapted to some of the highest and most challenging environments on earth. Ladakh is the only breeding habitat of the species in India, making the Union Territory critically important for its conservation.

Recognising its ecological and cultural significance, the Ladakh administration has declared the Black-Necked Crane as State Bird of Ladakh. The species is also regarded as a symbol of peace, further strengthening its significance as an ambassador of Ladakh's unique natural heritage.

Addressing the festival, LG Saxena said that conservation of the Black-Necked Crane cannot be separated from the protection of Ladakh's wetlands, grasslands and high-altitude ecosystems.

He said that wetlands such as Tso Kar, Hanle and other breeding landscapes are not merely habitats for wildlife but ecological systems that support biodiversity, regulate water systems and sustain pastoral communities. Protecting the crane therefore also means protecting the environment and livelihoods that depend upon these landscapes.

He emphasised that local communities must be recognised as partners, custodians and champions of conservation, rather than merely beneficiaries of conservation programmes.

He called for greater integration of traditional local knowledge and modern scientific methods to achieve effective conservation. "The Black-Necked Crane is much more than a bird. It is a symbol of peace, an ambassador of our high-altitude ecosystem and a bridge between wildlife conservation and the well-being of our communities. Our goal must be to protect nature while creating sustainable opportunities for the people who have safeguarded these landscapes for generations," he said.

He also highlighted the potential of responsible birdwatching, nature tourism, wildlife photography, local handicrafts and traditional products to create sustainable economic opportunities for communities. The Community Knowledge Circle and Community Eco-Market organised as part of the festival were cited as examples of connecting conservation with culture and local livelihoods.

The LG said that Ladakh must pursue the principle of "more value from nature, with less pressure on nature", ensuring that tourism and economic activity do not degrade the very ecosystems that attract visitors to the region.

The festival also highlighted the need to protect breeding grounds and wetlands from pollution, unregulated tourism, and other pressures, while raising public awareness of the ecological importance of the species.

Saxena also released knowledge products on the black-necked crane, including the Black-necked Crane: India Book, Black-necked Crane: Bhutan Book, a coffee table book on the black-necked crane, an action plan on conservation of the black-necked crane and its habitat, status and distribution of black-necked crane, bird economy status report, Leh, Ladakh, release of a special postal cover and cancellation in collaboration with India Post on the black-necked crane, and release of Ladakh declaration for black-necked crane conservation.

Lok Sabha passes 2 more Bills amid Oppn protests

Birla expressed anguish over the repeated disruption when the proceedings began at 11 am, only to be adjourned within minutes. He appealed to the government and the opposition to arrive at a common ground so that the House can debate on key Bills that bring "far-reaching changes in the country".

The Opposition has been protesting for more than three weeks, demanding Shah's presence in the House over student protests and police action.

The government's offer on Monday for a debate and Shah's reply failed to end the stalemate, with the Congress insisting that the Home Minister's response should specifically address who ordered the firing of pellets against student protesters on July 20.

The Congress has also announced that the demand for a discussion on the alleged theft of funds at the Ram temple in Ayodhya was "non-negotiable".

With the Monsoon Session scheduled to conclude on Thursday, uncertainty also remains over the fate of the women's reservation amendment bill, which could not be passed in the previous session, and the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Amendment Bill.

Ops launched after guard fires at suspects

search operation was launched by security forces at about 6 am in the woods of Bhatadurian, Sangiot and adjoining areas, officials said.

While searches were underway when reports last came in, forces were yet to find any traced of the 'suspects', the officials added.

Further details were awaited.

Panel on Demographic Changes visits Jagti, hears KP migrants

Nalin Prabhat.

On the second day, the team comprising Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar along with Durga Shankar Mishra (retired IAS officer), Balaji Srivastava (retired IPS officer) and Shamika Ravi reached Jagti township where they were accorded a traditional welcome by a group of migrant KPs, before holding a closed-door meeting with their representatives for nearly an hour.

A senior official, who was accompanying the team, said

as per the committee's terms of reference, they were meeting both officials as well as public delegations to discuss issues concerning demographic changes.

"Today, they specifically took out time to visit Jagti, where more than 5,000 (Kashmiri pandit) families reside. They met the residents and interacted with them, listening very carefully to their sentiments and suggestions," he said after the meeting.

He said community representatives also raised the issue of their return and rehabilitation, putting forward several suggestions.

"All the speakers presented their views before the committee, which heard them patiently and took note of their concerns. I hope these issues and suggestions will be reflected in the committee's report," he added.

The Centre had in May constituted the high-level panel headed by Justice (retd) Prabhakar Navlekar to study demographic changes in different parts of the country, arising from illegal immigration and other reasons, and to suggest measures to deal with these changes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the "High-powered Demography Mission" on August 15 last year. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the proposal on September 11, 2025.

The committee later inspected a Rohingya settlement in Narwal area of Jammu, where various delegations visited them, officials said.

According to officials, the committee will scientifically assess demographic changes occurring in various parts of the country due to illegal immigration and other reasons, analyse their causes, and recommend appropriate policy, legislative and administrative measures.

According to government data, over 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya Muslims and Bangladesh nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts of Jammu division, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police found over 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive and lodged them in a holding centre inside the Kathua Sub-Jail.

State of border with China will reflect on state of bilateral ties: India

nels, including the WMCC, local commander-level meetings and other agreed mechanisms, to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the LAC," he said.

India and China rolled out a series of measures in the last over one year to rebuild their relationship after it came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 and the subsequent military face-off that lasted for over four years.

In October 2024, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.Geographic Reference

In August last year, Modi travelled to the Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit. Modi and Xi held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) summit.

In the meeting, Modi said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

India 6th-largest economy with USD 3.92 Tn GDP

Chaudhary added.

In addition, the minister said the government is strengthening external competitiveness and trade resilience by expanding its network of free trade agreements and comprehensive economic partnership/cooperation agreements while maintaining macroeconomic stability through prudent fiscal management and price stability.

As per data from the National Securities Depository Limited, the gross sales by Foreign Portfolio Investors stood at Rs 29.8 lakh crore during the period from January to August 2026 (up to August 5, 2026), he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of public sector banks (PSBs) have been declining over the last three financial years and recorded a low of Rs 2,45,634 crore as of March 31, 2026, from a high of Rs 3,39,541 crore as of March 31, 2024.

The GNPA ratio of PSBs has reduced from 3.47 per cent as of March 31, 2024, to 1.93 per cent as of March 31, 2026.

Also, the number of frauds reported over the last three years in PSBs has declined from 54,850 cases in 2023-24 to 5,786 cases in 2025-26, the minister added.

Further, banks initiate appropriate action against borrowers involved in frauds and wilful defaults in accordance with the applicable RBI guidelines and the banks' board-approved policies, he said.

According to the inputs received from public sector banks, during the last three fiscal years, staff accountability has been fixed in 5,147 cases wherein first information report (FIR) has been filed in 9,451 cases against borrowers responsible for frauds.

In reply to another question, Chaudhary said the RBI has informed that the total amount of unclaimed deposits held with DEA Fund as of June 30, 2026, stood at Rs 86,917.08 crore.

The RBI has further informed that it does not maintain information on the total amount lying in inoperative bank accounts, he added.

The central bank has informed that it reimburses the claim amount to the banks from DEA Fund for the amount paid by them to the claimants, he said.

According to RBI, he said, the total amount of claims reimbursed from DEA Fund to banks till June 30, 2026, is Rs 17,414.68 crore.

NDA, INDIA Bloc MPs face-off outside Parl, raise counter-slogans

dents.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said Gandhi's mindset has been exposed before the world. He claimed Devendra Nath Mahto, who is on hunger strike in Jharkhand, was beaten up in the state. Congress is part of the coalition government in Jharkhand. BJP MP Kangana Ranaut said the children in Jharkhand are allegedly being subjected to atrocities.

They have been brutally beaten, and water cannons and tear gas have been used against them. We have to speak out about this. We are demanding answers on this, she said. Opposition MPs, including Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, also protested in Parliament House complex over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the "police excesses" against student protesters over NEET paper leaks in the national capital on July 20.

The agitation by students over alleged irregularities in Jharkhand recruitment exams escalated on Monday, with the police using water cannons and lathi-charging protesters to prevent a march to the assembly. Clashes between the protesters and police personnel took place in the state capital Ranchi on Monday after thousands of job aspirants breached multiple barricades while marching towards the assembly, where the Monsoon Session was underway, officials said.

SC directive in cases of missing persons

language of our earlier order is clear and unambiguous. The expression "person" means every person, irrespective of age or gender.

"If any State/Union Territory has failed to comply with the order in its true letter and spirit, notice of contempt shall be issued to the concerned Chief Secretary and Director General of Police," the bench said in its August 5 order.

The top court directed them to be personally present before it and file their respective show-cause affidavits explaining why they should not be proceeded against and punished for their deliberate defiance and non-compliance with the orders of this court.

The apex court directed that all the states/Union Territories, which have not filed their affidavits despite its earlier directions are, prima facie, in contempt.

"Accordingly, notice of contempt shall be issued to the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of the concerned States/Union Territories.

"They shall remain personally present before this Court and file their respective show-cause affidavits explaining why proceedings for contempt should not be initiated against them for their failure to comply with the specific directions issued by this court," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on October 5.

Noting that 47,000 children remain untraced in India as on date, the top court on May 22 had directed police authorities across the country to immediately register FIRs in cases of missing persons and said the anti-human trafficking units should be made fully functional within four weeks.

Issuing a slew of directions, it expressed displeasure over the rise in the number of cases of missing children and said they are often victims of organised inter-state trafficking syndicates.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is directed to put in place an all-India grid connecting each and every police station in the country on one platform, which will have a special portal dedicated to human trafficking, including missing children and women.

"The concerned police stations are directed to immediately institute FIR the moment any information reaches them with regard to any person missing, without waiting for a preliminary inquiry or leaving it to the guardians of the missing persons.... The said FIR shall mandatorily incorporate the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, relating to kidnapping/trafficking," the bench had said.

The court said whenever a child goes missing, authorities should proceed on the presumption of kidnapping or abduction from the outset.

It had said registering such cases under the penal provisions for kidnapping would ensure seriousness in investigation and avoid delays.

The apex court had also directed that the children who are traced should ordinarily be handed over to their families within 24 hours, unless there are indications that the family itself was involved in trafficking or exploitation.

"The moment any person is recovered or rescued, he/she should be taken for Aadhaar verification or for the making of an Aadhaar card. This direction is issued in view of the fact that, for the purpose of procuring an Aadhaar card, fingerprints and other biometrics are taken," the bench said.

The directions were passed on a petition filed by a man named G Ganesh before the Madras High Court after his daughter went missing from Chennai on September 19, 2011.

Kavinder urges people to celebrate I-Day with pride

reaffirming their commitment to the nation.

Meanwhile, Shimla Doordarshan Kendra head Sumit Sharma called on the governor at Lok Bhawan here in connection with the ongoing "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign.

During the visit, he briefed the governor about the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, aiming to inspire a sense of patriotism among citizens by encouraging them to hoist the National Flag at their homes, as the nation gears up to celebrate the 80th Independence Day amid the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorations.

On the occasion, Gupta also took a selfie with the Tricolour, joining millions of citizens across the country who have been uploading their photographs with the National Flag on the official Har Ghar Tiranga portal.

1,600 Buildings Collapse, 181 Dead: Videos Of 7.4 Magnitude Colombia Earthquake

BOGOTA, AUG 11: A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia, rattling much of the country and setting off a desperate search and rescue of survivors trapped under the rubble of hundreds of collapsed buildings in several cities. At least 169 people have died, and around 570 others have been injured in the South American nation's strongest earthquake this century.

The deaths are likely to rise as rescue crews and residents continued to dig through flattened buildings, even as the Colombian Geological Service has warned of additional tremors.

The disaster struck just days after President Abelardo De La Espriella took over the highest office in the country, thrusting the new administration into its first major crisis, with memories still fresh of devastating twin earthquakes in neighbouring Venezuela in June.

According to Espriella, at least 1,575 homes, 18 health centres, and 52 schools had been damaged in the powerful quake that was followed by 21 aftershocks. The president said at least 61 buildings had completely collapsed as he declared an emergency to expedite funding for the quake recovery.

"We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination," he said.

Visuals shared on social media sites showed a four-story building crumbled in Pereira during the quake, while footage from Manizales showed one of the side towers of the city's landmark neo-Gothic cathedral collapsing and scattering debris onto nearby streets.

Colombia's Geological Service said Monday's quake was the country's strongest recorded "in the 21st century," and that it was followed by several aftershocks.

A video broadcast by Caracol Television showed a group of people pulling a small baby covered in dust from under a pile of rubble. Caracol reported the six-month-old girl and her mother were rescued from under a five-story building in Cali.